Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE APPRVEED BY S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 130649

EXDIS PASS TO MR L KINSOLVING

FOL REPEAT TUNIS 4003 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 7 JUN.

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 4003

EXDIS

FOR VELIOTES, NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS ENRG TS LY

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: TUNISIAN POSITION UNCHANGED

1. REGRET I WAS ABSENT FROM EMBASSY DURING YOUR PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MONTGOMERY TODAY. HOWEVER, UPON RECEIVING MESSAGE SPENT NEXT THREE HOURS ENDEAVORING TO CONTACT FONMIN CHATTI OR SECTY. OF STATE TURKI9 FINDING THEM ENGAGED WITH PRIME MINISTER IN MARATHON PLANNING SESSION FOR MEETINGS WITH AL SECGTPOM CONFIDENTIAL

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RIADH, I SAW AMBASSADOR MEJDOUB, DIRECTOR EUOOPEAN-AMERICAN DIVISION, AND OBTAINED HIS PROMISE TO INFORM MEETING OF CONTENTS YOUR TELEPHONE CALL AND CONTENTS HABIB LETTER TO THORNTON.

2. I ASKED MEJDOUB FOR OUTRIGHT ASSURANCE THAT GOT POSITION RE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF "J.W. BATES" WAS UNCHANGED. HE

GAVE ME THAT ASSURANCE CATEGORICALLY. HE ADDED THAT THIS POSITION "WOULD BE THE VERY LAST POSITION TUNISIA WOULD YIELD". I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT LIBYANS IN LONDON HAD MISINTERPRETED SENSE OF TUNISIAN COMMUNIQUE (SEE SEPTEL TODAY'S DATE) ISSUED AFTER POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA.

- 3. I ALSO OBTAINED FROM MEJDOUB PROMISE THAT HE WOULD RELAY TO PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER MY REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFINGS ON OUTCOME OF TRI-LATERAL MEETINGS CHAIRED BY RIADH WHICH MAY COMMENCE THIS EVENING.
- 4. I LEARNED FROM MEJDOUB THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF CONTENTS OF HABIB TO THORNTON LETTER BY TELEPHONE FROM AMBASSADOR HEDDA.
- 5. ACTION REQUESTED: URGE YOU TO ASSURE READING AND BATES PRESIDENT THRNTON SOONEST THAT GOT POSITION ON IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL REMAINS UNCHANGED.
 MULCCAHY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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Subject: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: TUNISIAN POSITION UNCHANGED

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY

To: LONDON Type: TE

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